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J.D. Williams Library debuts renovations



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

The first floor of the J.D. Williams Library sported new carpets and seating as it opened its doors for the spring.

RACHEL ISHEE
NEWS EDITOR

Students who made visits to the J.D. Williams Library the first day of classes were greeted by several renovations throughout the interior of the building.

“New flooring has been installed on most of the first floor,” Stan Whitehorn, head of library facilities, said. “Some color

has been added to a few accent walls on the first and third floors.”

Although new flooring was installed at the east entrance two years ago, the library had not seen renovations of this size in years.

“The carpet had been in place since 1995 and was showing its age,” Whitehorn said. “Facilities Planning was most helpful in getting this new floor.”

In addition to several renovations, furniture has also been rearranged to better accommodate the updated interior, without a loss in seating.

Starbucks also received some updates including new equipment, a fresh coat of paint, updated lighting and décor, a new seating layout and an extended bar where students can pick up their drinks.

“Starbucks came to campus in 2011, and this is the first time it has undergone renovations,” Amy Greenwood, the marketing coordinator for Ole Miss dining services said.

“All of the enhancements we made to the dining program are based on student feedback, and are designed to provide students with even more

SEE **LIBRARY** PAGE 3

ASB Senate outlines spring legislation goals

TAYLOR VANCE
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Body Senate met Tuesday night and outlined a vision for what it plans to accomplish during the spring semester. Senators discussed several ideas surrounding how they think the campus should move forward.

ASB Senators outlined pieces of legislation they are considering introducing on behalf

of the student body. Sen. Coco McDonnell, chairwoman of the External Affairs Committee, said she plans to possibly introduce legislation that would lower printing costs, add lamp posts in Whirlpool Trails to make the area safer and allow students to have concealed carry permits for firearms.

“Several people on (the External Affairs Committee) and I have also been discussing

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PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

ASB discussed goals for the spring semester in individual committee groups Tuesday in Lamar Hall.

Sumrall joins football coaching staff

GRAYSON WEIR
SPORTS EDITOR

Ole Miss has named Jon Sumrall its new linebackers coach, head coach Matt Luke announced Monday night.

With the hire, Luke will look to improve a defensive unit that struggled in 2017 largely in part due to its inability to tackle at the second level.

Sumrall, who served as assistant head coach, linebackers coach and special teams coordinator at Troy University, helped to coach a defense that finished atop the Sun Belt conference in several categories and top 25 in the nation in total defense. In addition, he led a special teams unit that finished second in the nation, allowing just 27.721 yards per return.

Prior to his stint at Troy that included a road victory over LSU in 2017, Sumrall’s coaching career began as a defensive graduate assistant in 2005, continued with various defensive positions at the University of San Diego and includes two seasons as co-defensive coordinator at Tulane University. In his second season with the Green Wave, Sumrall’s defense finished 22nd in total defense and 11th in red zone defense, and he was named a finalist for the FootballScoop Defensive Line Coach of the Year.

“Coach Sumrall became a defensive coordinator at a young age and has led turnarounds on that side of the ball everywhere he has been,” Luke said. “He is a relentless recruiter and gets the very best out of his players. His passion, energy and toughness make him a great fit for our staff, and we can’t wait to get him on campus.”

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COLUMN

The case for local affordable housing



JONATHAN LOVELADY
STAFF COLUMNIST

For a household to grow and sustain itself in this global economy, housing must be affordable and stable. Even in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, many are homeless and burdened by high rent costs. Even for many in the middle class, property ownership has become unattainable.

By definition, affordable housing allows a household to spend no more than 30

percent of its income on housing, after which it is considered “rent burdened.”

Here in Oxford, most people know the cost of housing is a problem or have at least heard the issue brought up in a conversation, so I am not going to bore you with statistics. The issue is that the problem is talked about but the solutions aren’t.

Wages cannot be raised, due to state minimum wage laws, and Oxford’s relatively small economy can only create a certain number of jobs that can pay for the housing here, so the only way to make life easier in Oxford is to fix the housing issue.

Student housing isn’t as hard to find, with countless properties offered all over town, but due to many of these properties’ “rent-by-the-bedroom” process, it is unaffordable for families to

sustain themselves.

Oxford may be a college town, but such a town needs adequate and, most importantly, affordable housing to sustain the university and the countless businesses that rely on the university for economic vitality. Opponents of more affordable housing typically disregard these residents merely because they can, but they fail to understand that they interact with these people on a daily basis in town.

Simply put, an economy cannot grow as quickly as possible if its housing is not good enough. The money that people use to keep roofs over their heads could be saved, which could boost the local economy even more.

These effects have pushed many into the county, which exerts pressure on that market or forces families

to move to and commute from other communities. More efforts are necessary to encourage developers to create housing that caters to the middle class in this town. This is important just because Oxford is growing, and not offering housing that is similar to the rates of pay in the area is ludicrous.

It takes the community to work with its elected officials, as well as non-profit organizations, to mitigate this issue as much as possible. Most metropolitan areas have this same problem over a much larger area, but we still have the quaint town environment of Oxford to solve housing affordability.

Jonathan Lovelady is a junior economics major from Los Angeles.

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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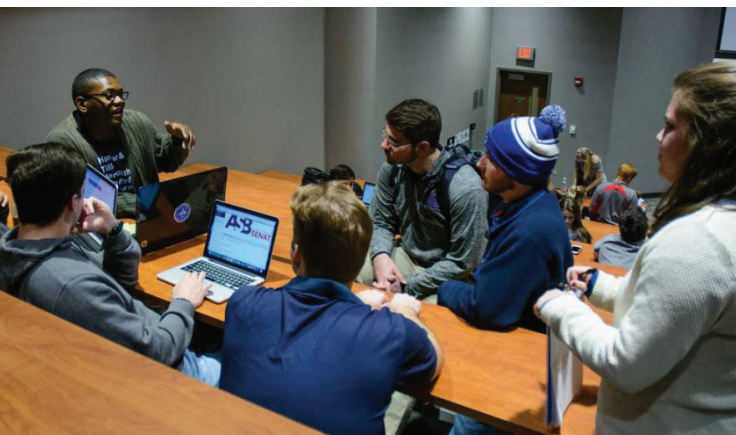


PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

ASB discussed goals for the spring semester in individual committee groups Tuesday in Lamar Hall.

ASB

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passing a concealed carry bill for our campus,” McDonnell said. “A school in Texas did this not long ago, and we are looking at what they did to make that happen.”

The current policy on firearm possession from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board states, “The Board recognizes that the possession of pistols, firearms or other weapons on any of its institutional premises or at its institutions or student functions off-campus by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials” can put others at risk and are, currently, not allowed on campus.

ASB Vice President Elam Miller said some of the ideas like McDonnell’s are still “in the discussion and research stage” and will take a longer time to achieve.

Miller said he plans to guide discussion toward projects such as “a sidewalk behind the new parking garage, more representation (in the Senate) for students who are veterans, a syllabus ‘bank’ before registering for classes to allow students to know about the course they’re signing up for, allowing more buildings to be open 24 hours a day and water

tanks for baseball games.”

This semester, ASB will also have a representative who is dedicated to working with Athletics on the design of the new Landshark mascot.

ASB President Dion Kevin did not wish to comment on any of the ideas presented until he had reviewed the legislation, but he said his vision for his last semester as president is to “finish out his term strong and solidify relations” on campus.

Kevin also said he wants to leave the administration in great shape for the next president to transition in smoothly and continue moving the campus forward.

Some of the ideas Kevin said he would like to see come to fruition are changing the “qualifications to run for Homecoming Court to a more equitable” standard to make sure people who are running are dedicated to the campus, adding a Purple Heart section on the Circle to honor veterans and implementing a library fee in tuition to allow the library to remain open 24 hours a day for five days a week and allow limited printing.

“We are one of the few universities in the SEC who doesn’t have a library fee,” Kevin said. “This process would have to be approved by the Institutions of Higher Learning.”



Tables were added to the dining area in Starbucks at the J.D. Williams Library over the winter break.

LIBRARY

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opportunities to enjoy their overall dining experience,” Greenwood said.

Junior accounting major Skyler Knapp said he was happy to see the recent changes.

“I think there were some areas of the library that very visibly needed attention,” Knapp said. “I was surprised to see them redo the floors in some areas. Overall, I think it was time for the facelift.”

Although many students agree the library needed updates, some think more still needs be done to create a better study environment for students. Senior criminal justice major Blake Spiers said he feels that the library interior is lacking compared to other SEC schools’ libraries.

“They really need more seating because there is a lot of wasted space in the library,” Spiers said. “That space could be filled with more tables and desks, because around midterms and finals week, you cannot find a seat.”



PHOTOS BY: XINYI SONG

The display case in the Starbucks at the J.D. Williams Library was renovated over the winter break.

Sophomore psychology major Madison Gunter shared a similar opinion about the lack of seating.

“I don’t think the library really needed any renovations, unless it’s for more places to sit,” Gunter said.

Whitehorn said this issue could be solved in the coming years.

“We are planning to add seating in the library in the near future,” Whitehorn

said. “We are currently in the planning phases of these efforts.”

Whitehorn said he hopes the new renovations will freshen up the appearance of the library and make the space more user-friendly for students in the future.

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Magician to instill feeling of wonder in audience

MADELEINE BECK
STAFF WRITER

Magic will be in the air this Thursday. Nate Staniforth, a magician from Ames, Iowa, will be performing his magic show here in Oxford on the Proud Larry's stage for the first time.

Part of the "Breaking Magic" series on the Discovery Channel, Staniforth is used to touring and creating jaw-dropping illusions for audiences of all sizes and is excited to wow the showgoers here this week.

Proud Larry's is a more snug venue than a large amphitheater with balconies and seats to fill hundreds, and the intimate show this week is likely to be an intense and electrifying spectacle.

"The magic varies because every night is different and every audience is different," Staniforth said. "I can say that it will be one of the strangest nights they've ever had. A series of strange moments."

Magic, in Staniforth's



PHOTO COURTESY: PROUDLARRYS.COM

eyes, is much more than throw-away entertainment. It's a device he uses to make people feel.

"One thing that magic does really well is that it

sort of forces you to live in the moment for a second. Like, when you go skydiving, nothing else matters. It's all fused within the moment," Staniforth said. "It

shouldn't feel like a night at a comedy club, it should feel like a free fall, you know? A jolt of electricity, and I love that about it."

However, Staniforth said he understands that magic's ability to make people feel can be a double-edged sword.

"One time at a show, this guy shouted out, 'You're the devil!' and stormed out. But that's one thing that doesn't happen at something like a symphony, for example," Staniforth said, laughing.

Although he doesn't want to be seen as a satanic figure, it's that very kind of bewilderment he said he likes to evoke from his audiences with his tricks. Staniforth's response to those who have negative feelings toward magic is a direct and honest one.

"Magic is fiction in the same way that you don't get upset when you see Peter Pan and recognize that the characters are not real. I'm not trying to insult intelligence or pretend to be something I'm not. I'm an artist."

In addition to his live shows, Staniforth is on a simultaneous book tour, promoting his memoir "Here Is Real Magic," which Square Books will sell at Thursday's show.

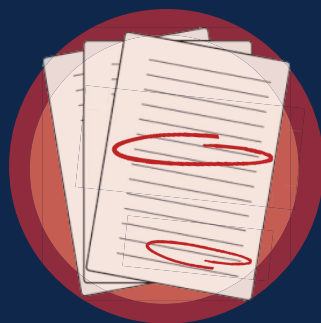
"It's a wild time right now. I've toured for a decade, but never while promoting a book. It makes this entirely different," Staniforth said.

"Here Is Real Magic" centers not around card tricks or pulling rabbits out of top hats but around Staniforth's own life experiences with finding the magic in everyday occurrences. After years of touring and practicing his craft, Staniforth takes readers on a journey from beginning magic as a child to regaining his ability to be amazed by the very thing he loves.

"The book really is about wonder and how to find it – especially after you've lost it," he said. "I've found sometimes that as you get older, it gets harder and harder to be amazed by anything."

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Fiber artist's lecture recognizes 'power of cloth'

MEGAN SWARTZFAGER

STAFF WRITER

Renowned fiber artist Mary Zicafoose will give a lecture titled "The Power of Cloth" at 6 p.m. tonight at the University of Mississippi Museum. A reception will follow the lecture.

The lecture will detail stories of Zicafoose's personal life and her work as an artist. Some of Zicafoose's tapestry series are currently on display in the University of Mississippi Museum. The exhibit includes her most recent collection, "Fault Lines." Zicafoose visited the museum in October for the opening of her exhibit.

Museum director Robert Saarnio said he views this lecture as an opportune window into the art world.

"We have a wonderfully unique opportunity with this lecture," Saarnio said. "A visual artist of international reputation, with her work exhibited in 23 U.S. embassies, for example, who is so articulate and gifted in describing her process, her inspirations and her evolving body of career work."

A defining feature of Zicafoose's work is her use of ikat,

an ancient dyeing technique that involves resist-dyeing and over-dyeing fibers. Zicafoose said she began weaving on a whim while in graduate school and discovered ikat several years later.

"At that time, I was weaving and selling elaborate tapestry-based carpets and was looking for a way to make my work less geometric and more painterly," Zicafoose said. "Little to absolutely nothing was in print about ikat at the time, and I stumbled across the one little how-to book on the market. It all took off from there."

Zicafoose's lecture is part of the eighth annual Oxford Fiber Arts Festival. The festival officially begins Thursday and ends Sunday. It features exhibits from local artists, demonstrations, workshops and a fiber market.

"I have never attended the Oxford Fiber Festival before, but I have taught and lectured at many, many others around the U.S.," Zicafoose said. "Oxford is just about the most charming community I have ever visited, so why would the Fiber Festival be anything but abounding with Southern hospitality and exud-



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Artist Mary Zicafoose stands in front of her "Fault Lines" exhibit displayed at the UM Museum from Oct. 3, 2017, to Feb. 3, 2018. She created the integrated series of weft-faced woven ikat tapestries with a theme driven by politics, human relationships and land movement.

ing with interest and warmth?"

According to the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council's website, the Oxford Fiber Arts Festival began in 2011 as an effort by the University of Mississippi Museum, with the help of the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, to create exhibits that would reach into the community. Zicafoose's exhibit was brought to the museum as part of this mission.

"We support the festival annually either by exhibiting textile or fiber art from a visiting artist or the Permanent Collection or by inviting a special guest lecturer from the textile or fiber arts field," Saarnio said. "We hold this festival, now in its eighth year, in very high regard. It is a program of our highly valued partner, the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council."

The lecture and reception tonight are free and open to the public. Zicafoose will also give a demonstration of the ikat technique at 9 a.m. Friday at the Powerhouse. A complete schedule of events for the Oxford Fiber Arts Festival can be found on the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council's website.

'The Sound of Music' visits Ford Center tonight

KIARA MANNING

STAFF WRITER

The Ford Center will be alive with the "sound of music" on tonight when the historical musical will visit Oxford as part of its national tour.

The sold-out show will tell the story of the von Trapp family.

"The Sound of Music" most notably includes music by Richard Rogers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. Ford Center marketing director Kate Meacham said she feels that the musical is a classic, as most people recognize a song or two even without having seeing it.

"It's a great show, it's a classic. A lot of the themes are universal, such as love, following yourself and understanding who you are and kind of being able to be true to yourself," Meacham said. "It's based on a true story, and it's also sort of figuring out what is your right path, and I think that's something most people can identify with."

The Ford Center is excited for this particular production because it features one of Ole Miss' own. Christina Tompkins graduated from Ole Miss in 2009 with a degree in theater, and "The Sound of Music" is her first national tour. Tompkins is a swing, also known as an

understudy, and in this particular role, she will be portraying one of the nuns. She is an understudy for Baroness Elsa Schraeder, the woman Captain von Trapp is supposed to marry.

"She understudies Baroness Elsa Schraeder, and that is her formal understudy. The rest of it she has to be prepared to play any of the adult female roles, so at any time she has to be called in within a couple hours no-

tice. They may tell her, 'Oh, you have to play Maria tonight' or someone else, so it's really challenging position to be in," Meacham said.

Senior risk management and insurance major Demero Miller said he loves that the Ford Center provides opportunities for students to see different Broadway shows.

"I think it's cool that we get the chance to see Broad-

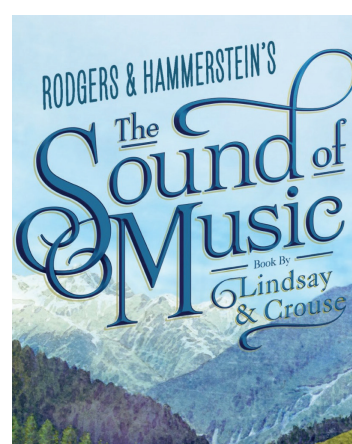


PHOTO COURTESY: BROADWAYATTHECCLES.COM

way productions such as 'The Sound of Music,' and for much cheaper than the usual price," he said.

This live production will definitely bring back memories. Meacham recalls when the movie musical would come on once a year and how she would look forward to watching it with her family. She said she hopes people will come to the Ford Center and enjoy the performance.

2018 PARADE of BEAUTIES

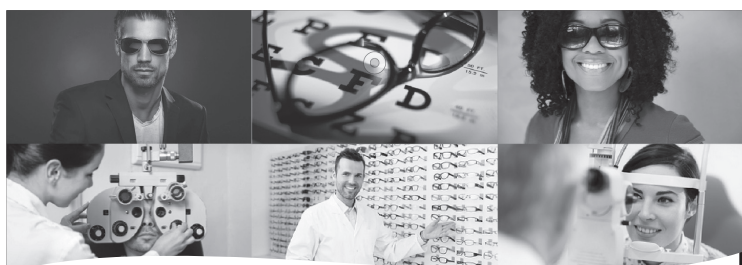
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35 However, briefly	58 Cong. meeting
37 Jump lightly	59 The wolf ____ the door
39 One more	60 Eye sore
42 Actor Baldwin	62 Ambient music composer Brian

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Villanova, Virginia top volatile NCAA rankings

LOGAN CONNER
STAFF WRITER

With more than half of the season gone, there are just six weeks until the famed March Madness begins. College basketball, unlike most sports, is an ever-changing mix of teams leaping and crashing up and down the rankings week by week. As the tournament inches closer, we are beginning to learn which teams are destined for a deep run to the Final Four.

On top for another week is No. 1 Villanova, who improved to 18-1 with wins at Georgetown and UConn and received 63 of 65 available first-place votes. With only one ranked matchup remaining on their schedule (Feb. 17 at Xavier), the Wildcats' spot as the No. 1-overall seed in the tourney seems inevitable.

Following 'Nova is No. 2 Virginia, set for a home-stand after road wins against Georgia Tech and Wake Forest. Looming this week, though, are matchups against two ranked teams in Clemson and Duke. With arguably the most impressive season thus far, Purdue stays at No. 3 and at No. 1 in the Big Ten. Fresh off a 15-



game win streak, the first big test for the Boilermakers lies ahead this week at home against No. 25 Michigan.

Closing out the top five are two of the heavy favorites, No. 4 Duke and No. 5 Kansas. In what could be a preview of the ACC Championship, the Blue Devils host the No. 2 Cavaliers. This matchup could shape the final pre-tournament rankings and ultimately affect both teams' seeds. The Jayhawks, on the other hand, have finally hit their stride, picking up five straights wins while two challenging matchups against No. 12

Oklahoma and Texas A&M wait on the horizon. With Kansas quickly looking like the Big 12-favorite, their 14th straight regular-season title could arrive sooner rather than later.

Bouncing back in the rankings after tough losses to Ohio State and Michigan over the last few weeks is No. 6 Michigan State. Led by one of the best players in the nation, big man Miles Bridges, the Spartans are looking to gain momentum with a Feb. 10 matchup against No. 3 Purdue. After starting 15-0, No. 7 West Virginia has lost three of its

last four, dropping matchups to Texas Tech, Kansas and TCU. The Mountaineers next host Kentucky on Saturday with an opportunity to rebound back to the top five.

Jumping into the top 10 is No. 8 Xavier, who looks like Villanova's only competition en route to yet another Big East title. Like 'Nova, the Musketeers face a rather-easy schedule with just one ranked matchup remaining against the Wildcats. Rounding out the top 10 are No. 9 Cincinnati and No. 10 North Carolina. However, with a loss Mon-

day night at Virginia Tech, expect the Tar Heels to drop a few spots after this week.

Other movers in the AP Poll were No. 12 Oklahoma, who dropped eight spots after road losses at Kansas State and Oklahoma State; No. 13 Ohio State, who jumped nine spots after road wins against Northwestern and Minnesota; and No. 17 Wichita State, who tanked 10 spots after bad losses to SMU and Houston.

New to the rankings were No. 16 Saint Mary's, who notably won at No. 15 Gonzaga; No. 20 Florida, No. 23 Nevada and No. 24 Rhode Island.

Dropping out of the rankings for the first time since 2014 was Kentucky, who fell at South Carolina and against Florida this week. After opening up as a pre-season favorite, coach Cal and the Wildcats are currently experiencing one of their worst seasons in recent history. And with matchups against No. 7 West Virginia, No. 19 Auburn, No. 20 Florida and No. 22 Tennessee left on their schedule, they could be in serious trouble. Of course, the last season they were unranked, they went to the national championship as a No. 8 seed. It could happen again.



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Rebels overpower Tide, pick up fourth SEC win

BEN MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Ole Miss ended Alabama's four-game winning streak Tuesday night at The Pavilion with a decisive 78-66 victory. Alabama point guard Collin Sexton, projected as a top 10 NBA draft pick, and his star backup, John Petty, failed to ignite their offense as Ole Miss picked up its fourth SEC victory and 11th win of the regular season.

The game marked the Rebels' sixth home win this season, while three difficult matchups against Texas, Auburn and Tennessee remain on the horizon. It was an important win for the Rebels, as they would have dropped to .500 with a loss tonight. Gaining back some lost momentum was essential, as they are about to head out on the road, where they have struggled mightily as of late.

Point man Deandre Burnett led the way for the Rebels, scoring from all over the court en route to 24 points on the night. Guards Terence Davis and Markel Crawford each contributed 15 points of his own.

Avery Johnson, the former NBA guard and current head coach at Alabama, was critical of his team following its loss but was quick to credit Ole Miss as an underrated force in SEC basketball.

"I want to congratulate



PHOTOS BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Devontae Shuler (LEFT) and Terence Davis (RIGHT) cheer from the bench as a teammate scores. Ole Miss defeated the Crimson Tide 78-66 on Tuesday night.

Andy Kennedy and his team," Johnson said. "Give them credit. They've been a hot team at home during SEC play. You have to play more than a 14- or 16-minute stretch to have success in any building on the road in the SEC. Tonight wasn't just about our lack of production. Tonight was about a hungry team in Ole Miss coming out ready to play and trying to impose their will on us."

As noted by Ole Miss head coach Andy Kennedy, the Rebels dominated from the tip-off. However, maintaining similar dominance in previous games has certainly not come easily. Tuesday night was an exception as the team was able to come out strong

and maintain a high energy level despite briefly faltering early in the first half.

"I thought our approach right out of the gate was awesome," Kennedy said. "You saw how big they are. They are really, really big. We knew that we had to move them, drive them and make good decisions. And that's exactly what we did."

The Rebels' elusive interior athleticism and skill, led by junior college transfer forward Bruce Stevens, emerged from the woodwork and locked down Alabama's post players. As for the size and skill of the Alabama defense, hot perimeter shooting and consistency from the line spread out the defense and allowed Ole Miss to showcase an



Terence Davis tries to finish at the rim against Alabama defenders.

effective offensive display.

Moving forward, this inconsistent Ole Miss team can rest easy knowing it is capable of defeating high-calibre teams with firepower to spare.

With that said, Kennedy's players will need to maintain this level of play if they hope to avoid the all-too-familiar, late-season exit from the NCAA Tournament picture.

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